

<p><b>SOUTH WEST AREA COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION (SWACT)</b>  <b>Meeting Minutes</b>  <b>January 12, 2024</b>  <b>Teleconference</b></p>
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❖ Roll Call ❖

Chair Nikki Messenger called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Roll was called, and a quorum confirmed. (15 voting members present. V = voting member for this meeting. Quorum = 11 (50% of filled [currently 22] primary membership positions.)

**Commission Members and Alternates in Attendance (alphabetical)**

Adams, Scott	Douglas County (Alternate)	
Alcorn, Brad	Curry County (Primary)	V
Baglien, Don	Douglas County Stakeholder (Primary)	V
Baron, Tony	City of Brookings (Alternate)	V
Boyer, Brant	Douglas County Stakeholder (Primary)	V
Brittsan, Robert	Aviation (Alternate)	V
Burns, John	Freight/Rail (Primary)	V
Cheas, Cheryl	Douglas County Stakeholder (Alternate)	V
Dolgonas, Dick	Bicycle & Pedestrian (Primary)	V
Dunham, Ralph	Coos County Stakeholder (Alternate)	V
Gilbert, Kristi	Douglas County City-At-Large (Primary)	V
Hunter, Chris	ODOT (Primary)	V
Kent, Scott	Port (Alternate)	V
Ledbetter, Steve	Douglas County City-At-Large (Alternate)	V
Malmberg, Clayton	Curry County Stakeholder (Primary)	V
Medeiros, Brandi	Douglas County City-At-Large (Alternate)	
Messenger, Nikki	City of Roseburg (Primary)	V

**ODOT Staff in Attendance**

- |                       |                                     |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Boardman, Jennifer | Region 3 Transit Coordinator        |
| 2. DeWald, Teresa     | Region 3 Local Agency Liaison       |
| 3. Latham, Dan        | Region 3 Public Information Officer |
| 4. Neavoll, Darrin    | Region 3 Manager                    |
| 5. Thompson, Sarah    | Region 3 Executive Analyst          |

**Guests in Attendance**

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 1. Brown, Julie  | Oregon Transportation Commission Chair |
| 2. Metz, Melissa | Coos County Area Transit District      |

❖ Public Input ❖

None

❖ Approval of Minutes ❖

- **Motion made and seconded to approve the November 17, 2023, SWACT Minutes. (Cheryl Cheas/Brant Boyer)**
- Discussion: None.
- *Motion carried.*

❖ Membership Updates ❖

None

❖ Carbon Reduction Program ❖

**Presentation:** Rye Baerg gave an overview of the small urban and rural call for projects for the Carbon Reduction Program that are now open. There is \$12 million available for FY2024. Priorities for the program are vehicle and fuel technology, systems and operations, transportation options, and pricing. A local agency listening session will be held on January 31, 2024, and informational webinars will be coming. Applications are due by May 31, 2024.

**Discussion:** Nikki Messenger asked if you have to be a local public agency to apply, and can the city apply for the local sanitation provider? A: Yes, you have to be an LPA to apply. No private companies are not eligible for this funding. Ralph Dunham asked if this is the same funding as for the EV Highway? A: No this is a separate pot of funding. John Burns asked if port authorities qualify? A: Yes. Cheryl Cheas stated that during the last round of applications, R-99 diesel didn't qualify and wanted to know if it will qualify this round? A: R-99 isn't listed specifically in the guidance so it will not qualify this round either. Clayton Malmberg asked if there was a match requirement or were projects fully funded? A: This is a reimbursement program with a 10.27% match requirement.

❖ Connect Oregon VIII ❖

**Presentation:** John Boren and Erik Havig gave a presentation on the next round of Connect Oregon that will have approximately \$46 million to fund rail, marine or aviation projects that will provide an economic benefit to the state and assist with lower transportation costs. Project applications are due at the end of February 2024 and the OTC is anticipated to select projects in October 2024.

**Discussion:** Nikki Messenger would like to make sure the process is a little different this time around. The last round was very painful to be involved in. We need better representation on the modal committees. She would also like to know if the Super Act would be convened again, and what is the timeline? A: A better streamlined process is in the works to make the selection smoother. There will be a Super Act that needs to be convened. Each ACT will meet and score

the projects, and then the Super Act a week later. The process should occur between May and July 2024.

### ❖ **Statewide Intercity Network Update** ❖

**Presentation:** Jillian Trinkaus gave an update on what is happening in the Statewide Intercity Network office. There is currently a shortage of employees, the COVID funding has ended, costs are up, supply chain issues, a shift in travel patterns, concerns about safety, however, riders are returning. Technology is changing fast and this office is working on streamlining procurement, intercity transit trip planning, contactless fare payments and working on addressing equity concerns.

**Discussion:** None

### ❖ **ACT Chair/OTC Meeting** ❖

**Presentation:** Nikki Messenger and Julie Brown gave an overview of the ACT Chair/OTC meeting.

**Discussion:** None

### ❖ **ACT Work Plan** ❖

**Presentation:** Chris shared with the group that the ACT work plan will be sent out after this meeting. We will be bringing it back to the March SWACT meeting for a vote.

**Discussion:** None

### ❖ **Region 3 Updates** ❖

**Presentation:** Darrin Neavoll spoke about Region 3.

#### Region Updates:

1. The Governors office and the legislature approved a \$19 million package for the biennium for maintenance.
  - a. \$8 million for winter ops (\$1.1 million to Region 3 for High Cascades, GP – Canyonville and Siskiyou)
  - b. \$7 million for fog lines (\$700,000 to Region 3 for 138E, OR99 and US101)
  - c. \$4 million for purchase of 10 yd trucks (statewide)

#### Funding Opportunities:

1. \$1.8 million in the last round of Covid funding was awarded for Transit projects.
  - a. \$342,399 to Coos County Area Transit
  - b. \$200,000 to Curry Public Transit
  - c. \$748,360 to Umpqua Public Transportation District

- d. \$292,826 to Josephine County Transit
2. PROTECT Grant was submitted in November for \$70 million for the Arizona Slide. Should hear back in early Spring 2024
3. Earmarks requests are being accepted. For SW Area, we are discussing which projects to submit, but think Harbor Sidewalks may go in again.
4. RAISE Grant will be submitted at the end of February for the Bullard's Bike and Pedestrian Bridge.
5. National AOP Culvert grant is coming our way. Will be submitting for the failed culverts on US101.

OTC Updates:

1. Next meeting is January 23 – 24<sup>th</sup>
  - a. 25 -27 budget process
  - b. 2025 legislative concept
  - c. Tolling
  - d. ADA program update
  - e. SAP final feedback
2. March 13 – 14<sup>th</sup>, OTC will be in Medford

**Discussion:** Julie Brown urged everyone to attend the OTC meeting in Medford in March, and stated the Joint Transportation Chairs are working on a listening tour to hear about transportation issues. The Work Plan is very important, and the commissioners are attending ACT meetings regularly to hear about the issues in each region. The OTC is currently working with and meeting regularly with the Governor's office to discuss transportation packages. Julie stated her term is scheduled to end at the end of June, she is writing a letter to the Governor to request she be allowed one more term. Nikki Messenger thanked Julie for coming to the meeting and appreciates her raising the voice of the ACT.

❖ **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Training** ❖

**Presentation:** Lisa Brown gave an overview of House Bill 2985 which directs ODOT to diversify its advisory committees to reflect Oregon's population's racial, ethnic, and ability composition, as determined by the most recent American Community Survey. The bill explicitly calls out ODOT's statutory advisory committees; however, in alignment with the Strategic Action Plan and our value of embracing equity and fostering a culture of inclusion, the agency will include all advisory committees in this mandate. This will utilize the viewpoints of those who reside in the communities ODOT serves and who are likely to be affected by the decisions ODOT makes. It will also prioritize diversity, equity and inclusion by identifying and addressing systemic barriers to ensure all Oregonians benefit from transportation services.

**Discussion:** Nikki Messenger asked how these dynamics are being weighted in funding decisions. There are a lot of grant applications looking for this information and the data is hard to gather if you aren't a social service provider. A: Lisa isn't sure. Will find out. Lisa is also

available for support if there is data that is needed. Darrin Neavoll informed the group that if local agencies are needing information, ODOT is doing a better job of collecting the data and can provide if needed. Chris Hunter let the group know that a lot of grant applications have links in them to databases that show all of the data.

❖ **NOA's and Adjournment** ❖

Dick Dolgonas gave recognition to Darrin Neavoll for going above and beyond for him in a recent personal matter.

Nikki Messenger adjourned the meeting at 11:49 am.

**Next SWACT Meeting: Friday, March 08, 2024, at 10 am. Meeting will be virtual.**